

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

February 10, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman:

I write today to renew my request for an oversight hearing on the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office (LPO). The reaction here in Congress to the difficulties confronting the LPO must be fully informed. If they are not, we risk premature elimination of the program on the one hand, or continued obligations of taxpayer money to support questionable projects on the other.

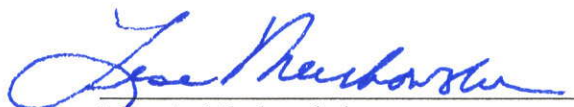
I believe that the federal government can and should play a constructive role in the deployment of clean energy technology, but we have to get it right.

Even as the administration has worked to complete its own audit of the LPO, new reasons to be concerned have arisen. Subsequent to the bankruptcy filings of Solyndra and Beacon Power, Nevada Geothermal has struggled financially, and Fisker has announced layoffs. All of these companies were supported by the LPO, either through the Stimulus' 1705 loan guarantee program or through the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing direct loan program.

Secretary Chu has already stated that "there's going to be a lot of work going forward with the loan program." While the administration's audit of itself is a reasonable start, it is imperative that the Committees of jurisdiction in both the House and Senate better understand the state of the LPO as well. That is only possible through timely and transparent oversight.

In light of the conclusion of the administration's audit, it is my hope that we can schedule an oversight hearing on the LPO, and hear directly from Secretary Chu, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Murkowski
Ranking Member